

This Week in Congress

January 2, 2007

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you and your family had a good holiday season and a Happy New Year. I will return to Washington, D.C., on Thursday to be sworn into a new term in office and begin working on behalf of Kansans in the new Congress.

Changes to First District Tour Schedule

The recent winter storm has created an emergency in western Kansas demanding the attention of state and federal officials. Tomorrow I will be touring the damage with Governor Sebelius. Unfortunately, this will force me to miss my previously scheduled events in Washington, Marshall and Nemaha Counties.

Also, due to changes in the Congressional voting schedule, my previous plans to be in Seward and Meade Counties on Monday, January 8 have been altered. On Monday, I will be in Canton in McPherson County at Citizens State Bank at 10:30 a.m. I will be at the Stone City Café in Marion in Marion County at noon later that day. [Click here](#) to view times and locations and to stay up-to-date on tour stops still being scheduled.

Praising the Life of President Gerald Ford

Our nation learned the day after Christmas of the passing of President Gerald Ford. At the age of 93, Ford passed away surrounded by his family in California.

Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States on August 9, 1974, a day after President Richard Nixon resigned from office in light of the Watergate scandal. It was during this time that I first became interested in politics and government. I was a college student and was interning/had interned in the Washington, D.C., office of Congressman Keith Sebelius during the Watergate scandal.

I have much respect for President Ford. My thoughts and prayers are with the Ford family,

including President Ford's wife, Betty, and their children, Michael, John, Steven and Susan.

Winter Storms Hit Kansas

Kansans in the western part of the state were hit hard this week by a winter storm. Many are without power and livestock producers have stranded cattle and are facing feed shortages. I have been in contact with Governor Sebelius, county emergency personnel and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to discuss the situation and what we can do to help those who have been affected by the storm.

Contact information for county officials - local emergency management coordinators and local sheriffs - can be found on the Kansas Division of Emergency Management website by [clicking here](#).

Continuing My Eleventh Annual Big First Listening Tour

As part of my listening tour, I have been in Palco, Wilson, Lincoln, Salina, Delphos, Glasco, Courtland, Jewell, Logan, Lenora, Hill City and Ellis. Today I was in Luray, Downs and Smith Center. On Saturday, I will be at the Tasty Pastry Bakery in Clay Center at 8:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to view times and locations and to stay up-to-date on tour stops still being scheduled.

Very truly yours,

Jerry